

there is not common ground. In other words, there has to be an effort to see if we can't find a way for everybody to say, well, it's a good idea. And if you end up being in a position where you don't, at some point in time, sooner rather than later, you've got to say enough is enough; Kosovo is independent. And that's the position we've taken.

The people of Kosovo need to know that it is a solid, firm position. And even though there's diplomacy and talks hopefully trying to find a way forward to accommodate Russia and Serbia and the EU—by the way, most people in the EU are very much in favor. The EU position is for the Ahtisaari plan. They just hope that there is some way that we can reach an accommodation with a variety of interests so that the transition to independence will be as smooth and easy as possible. But if that becomes—is apparent that that's not going to happen in a relatively quick period of time, in my judgment, we need to put forward the resolution. Hence, deadline.

Thank you all for your attention. Mr. Prime Minister, it was a great press conference. Proud to be the first American sitting President to actually hold a press conference on Albanian soil as well. Thank you very much.

Prime Minister Berisha. Thank you, President.

President Bush. Thank you all.

Prime Minister Berisha. Thank you.

President Bush. Good job. Thank you.

Prime Minister Berisha. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:40 p.m. in the Courtyard at the Council of Ministers. In his remarks, he referred to President Alfred Moisiu of Albania; President Nicolas Sarkozy of France; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Prime Minister Berisha referred to former President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Future Status Process of Kosovo. Prime Minister Berisha and some reporters spoke in Albanian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania in Tirana

June 10, 2007

Mr. Prime Minister, if I might offer a toast. Thank you for your hospitality. I'm honored to be in the presence of the leaders of three important allies and friends of the United States—Croatia, Macedonia, and, of course, our host, Albania.

We thank you for your strong leadership. We join you in your aspirations to join Euro-Atlantic institutions. We appreciate you working for peace. Thank you for the Adriatic Charter. May God bless your nations. May God bless you all.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. at the Prime Minister's villa. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ivo Sanader of Croatia; and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Small-Business Owners in Fushe-Kruje, Albania

June 10, 2007

One of the exciting moments for our trip to Albania is to meet with small-business owners. Laura and I thank the mayor. We thank the owner of the restaurant, and we thank these entrepreneurs for joining us to talk about your story, about your dreams, and about the opportunities a microloan program, provided by the taxpayers of the United States, is giving you to create jobs.

And so we're excited to be here. Thank you for coming. And we're looking forward to hearing your stories.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. at Cafe Cela. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Ismet Mavriqi of Fushe-Kruje, Albania. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.